

## Speak up & be heard

CONSUMER REGISTER lists summaries of major consumer proposals before Federal agencies. If you wish to submit written comments, include your name & address, state the name & *Federal Register* citation of the proposal on which you are commenting and explain your views briefly & clearly.

## Interstate land sales

June 15 is deadline for comments on Housing & Urban Development Dept.'s proposals for strengthening its administration of the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act.

Among other features, the proposed amendments would require

- Developers to state what the resale potential of property is, whether there is a resale program & costs that can be incurred in resale; (this is considered significant because a majority of buyers purchase development property for investment purposes);

- Developers to disclose to buyers the financial standing of the developer, improvement plans & whether certain permits (water, construction, dredging or others) are necessary;

- Developer's personnel not to tell potential purchasers that certain lots have been sold or "are selling fast" when this is not true;

- Developers not to encourage purchaser to sign anything before seeing a property report, which gives basic description of land;

- Developers not to say property can be divided & sub-divided without explaining cost and feasibility;

- Developers not to say or suggest that HUD recommends or approves the property in any way.

These new rules are proposed to warn the potential buyer of some of the pitfalls involved in buying land from developers who sell across state lines.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 4, page 11096. Send comments to Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Housing & Urban Development Dept., Washington, DC 20410. CONSUMER NEWS: July 1, 1972, page 2. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15, 1972.

## Money orders

Postal Service has embarked on plans to sell domestic money orders in amounts up to \$300. Previously, the limit for a money order was \$100.

The fee for money orders in amounts over \$100 & up to \$300 will be 40¢.

The new plan is being put into effect throughout the country on a staggered basis:

- First to offer the money orders in higher denominations were 1st class post offices in the New York Metropolitan Region as of April 28. On July 1, 2nd, 3rd & 4th class post offices in that same region will begin selling the new money orders. (Included in this region are ZIP code areas with the following 1st 3 digits: 068 through 079, 088-098, 100-119 & 124-127 in New York, New Jersey & Connecticut. Also included are Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands.)

- Eastern Region—1st class post offices as of May 28; July 1 for 2nd, 3rd & 4th class post offices. (This re-

gion includes Connecticut, New Jersey & New York outside the New York Metropolitan Region as well as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware & Virginia.)

- Southern Region—July 1 for all post offices. (This region includes Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas & Oklahoma.)

- Central Region—July 21 for 1st class post offices; Oct. 13 for 2nd, 3rd & 4th class post offices. (This region includes Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska & Kansas.)

- Western Region—Aug. 18 for 1st class post offices; Oct. 13 for 2nd, 3rd & 4th class post offices. (This region includes Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska & Hawaii.)

Details—*Federal Register*: April 26, page 10335.

## Canned leafy greens

June 30 is deadline for comments on Agriculture Dept.'s proposal to amend its standards for grades of canned leafy greens. At the time the current standards went into effect, certain quality conditions of canned leafy greens were not present in the product.

The proposed amendment spells out defects of character that now on occasion are present in these canned products, such as objectionable color, mushy texture, tough texture & coarse or fibrous stems. By providing better descriptions of defects in canned leafy greens, Agriculture would have a better basis for grading these products for consumers.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 13, page 9302; May 7, page 11353. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, DC 20250.

## DES

On April 27, Food & Drug Administration banned the use of all DES (diethylstilbestrol) hormone implants in cattle & sheep.

DES has been used by cattle & sheep growers to produce more meat, but experiments on laboratory animals have shown that DES can cause cancer. On Jan. 1, FDA banned the use of DES in animal feed, but it had permitted the use of DES implants into the ears of cattle & sheep as long as the DES residues were not found in the animals.

New sensitive instruments, however, have detected from 0.04 parts per billion of DES residue in beef livers (from a half dose of DES) to 0.12 parts per billion of DES

residue (from a full dose). As a result, FDA decided to ban all use of DES in meat-producing animals.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 27, page 10485. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 1, 1972; Jan. 1, 1973.

## Aerosol sprays

July 2 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposal to require special hazard labeling for self-pressurized household products using fluorocarbon propellants.

FDA has received reports of many deaths resulting from deliberate misuse of aerosol sprays—largely among youths who inhale or sniff them to obtain an intoxication effect.

In addition to presently required warnings on aerosol spray products, FDA's proposal would require a warning statement, such as "WARNING—Do not inhale directly; deliberate inhalation of contents can cause death."

Details—*Federal Register*: May 3, page 10956. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Textured vegetable products

July 6 is deadline for comments on Agriculture Dept.'s proposals for requiring standards & labeling regulations for meat patties & other meat products—such as chili con carne—containing textured vegetable products.

Textured vegetable products are derived basically from soybeans, which have been developed for use in processed foods. With various flavorings & colorings, they can resemble meat in almost all respects.

On June 17, 1970, Agriculture Dept. proposed setting standards for meat patties & similar products, including those containing non-meat ingredients designed to increase the volume of the products. It received 533 comments on the proposed regulation, which showed that (1) consumers wanted to know more about what they are buying & (2) food processors wanted to prepare products to "meet all market demands."

According to the current proposal, a distinction would be made between large-particle & small-particle textured vegetable products. In some cases, with the large particles, the name of the product would be changed. For example, chili containing more than 3% of the large-particle product would have to be labeled "chili con carne with textured vegetable product." Smaller particles could be used without changing the name. However, specific ingredients, including textured vegetable products, would have to be listed in both cases & all of the products would still have to meet minimum meat-content standards.

The proposed requirements would give consumers an opportunity to take advantage of a wide range of new products using nutritious ingredients of vegetable origin while being informed how much real meat & how much

textured vegetable product they are getting for their money.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 4, page 11090. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, DC 20250.

## Bike safety

July 9 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's regulations to set safety standards for bicycles for use by children under 16 years old. (See CONSUMER NEWS page 2.)

Details—*Federal Register*: May 10, page 12299. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Tire standards

Oct. 5 is new deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's new proposal for grading tires as an aid to consumers. The proposed regulations—which are a revision of an earlier proposal—would require tires to be graded in terms of treadwear, traction & high-speed performance.

The earlier proposal for consumer information [CONSUMER NEWS: Oct. 15, 1971] had included road-hazard resistance, endurance, uniformity & balance. These performance areas have been dropped to aid public understanding. Based on comments received by the agency, consumers seemed to be more interested in standards for traction, treadwear & high-speed performance.

Under the new proposal, the agency would require every new car tire of 13-, 14- or 15-inch rim diameter to bear 3 grade marks on the sidewall, indicating that tire's rating for traction, treadwear & high-speed performance. The 3 grades & an explanation of the grading symbols would have to appear on a label that would be attached to the tire's tread surface. The tire label would have to explain in plain English what each high-speed grade means.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 7, page 6194; May 25, page 13748. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590. Refer to Docket 25, Notice 4.

## Correction

An error in CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15 caused a discrepancy in the number of proposed grade sizes for tomatoes. The word "medium" was inadvertently left out of the sentence describing tomato sizes in 6 graduations. The sentence as corrected should read: "The proposed schedule would describe tomato sizes in 6 graduations with the following designations: extra small, small, medium, large, extra large, maximum large."

Details—*Federal Register*: April 24, page 10106. CONSUMER REGISTER: May 15.

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